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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 CHARLES J. VERKIST, et al.,

11 CASE NO. C21-0721JLR-DWC

12 Plaintiffs,

13 ORDER DENYING STIPULATED
14 MOTION TO EXTEND
15 PRETRIAL DEADLINES

v.

16 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
17 et al.,

18 Defendants.

19 Before the court is the parties' stipulated motion for an extension of certain
20 pretrial deadlines. (Mot. (Dkt. # 35).) Specifically, the parties ask the court to extend the
21 deadline for disclosure of expert testimony from March 27, 2023 to June 12, 2023; the
22 discovery motions deadline from April 26, 2023 to July 12, 2023; the discovery deadline
23 from May 26, 2023 to August 11, 2023; and the deadline for dispositive motions and
24 motions challenging expert witness testimony from June 27, 2023 to August 11, 2023.
25 (*Id.*) They explain that they need these extensions because one of the two Plaintiffs has

1 experienced an unanticipated medical complication that has interfered with Plaintiffs'
2 ability to participate in discovery "for a significant period of time." (*Id.*) The new dates
3 will allow Plaintiffs to "reengage" in expert discovery, enable the parties and their
4 experts to collect and evaluate the medical records related to the Plaintiff's medical
5 condition, and provide an opportunity to conduct depositions before the close of
6 discovery. (*Id.*) The parties do not ask the court to continue the November 6, 2023 trial
7 date or any other pretrial deadlines. (*Id.*; *see* Sched. Order (Dkt. # 29).)

8 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b)(4), "[a] schedule may only be
9 modified for good cause and with the judge's consent." Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4).
10 Although the court concludes that the Plaintiff's medical condition provides good cause
11 that would otherwise justify an extension of deadlines, the court DENIES the parties'
12 stipulated motion.

13 The court issues scheduling orders setting trial and related dates to provide a
14 reasonable schedule for the resolution of disputes. Extensions of the deadline to
15 complete discovery imperil the parties' ability to timely prepare their dispositive motions.
16 Extensions of the deadline for dispositive motions and motions challenging expert
17 testimony, meanwhile, cut short the time the court has allocated to itself to decide the
18 motions early enough for the parties to consider the court's rulings and plan accordingly
19 for trial or for an alternative resolution. The court will not, therefore, extend the
20 discovery and dispositive motions deadlines without also continuing the trial date.

21 Because its trial calendar is very active in late 2023 and early 2024, the court
22 cannot offer the parties a short continuance of the trial date to accommodate their request

1 for additional time to complete discovery. The court is willing, however, to consider
2 moving the parties' trial date to the end of its trial calendar and resetting all unexpired
3 pretrial deadlines in accordance with the new trial date. The parties should be aware that
4 the court is presently scheduling trials in the summer of 2024. If the parties wish to seek
5 this relief, they should file a stipulated motion to that effect.

6 Dated this 21st day of February, 2023.

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10 JAMES L. ROBART
11 United States District Judge
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